

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Morrison on 3/15/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIM

Re. Claim 10: After the phrase "wherein the stop layer" as recited in line 1, change the phrase "consist of^a group comprising" to --is selected a group consisting of--.

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3-29-07

After the phrase "NiCu, and" as recited in line 3, changes the phrase "such derivatives" to --combination thereof--.

Re. Claim 29: After the phrase "wherein the stop layer" as recited in line 1, change the phrase "consist of^a group comprising" to --is selected a group consisting of--.

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After the phrase "NiCu, and" as recited in line 3, changes the phrase "such derivatives" to --combination thereof--.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to disclose the claimed invention such as a magnetic portion is formed between adjacent regions of non-magnetic material and a stop layer is formed over the adjacent regions, and excess material is covered the stop layer and the magnetic portion together and a planar upper boundary of the magnetic portion is formed by chemical-mechanical polishing until the stop layer is reached to define the upper boundary of the magnetic portion that is coplanar with an upper surface of the stop